



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Raised Bill No. 822

LCO No. 2681



Referred to Committee on CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING INTERVIEWS OF CHILDREN BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DURING
INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-101h of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person
4 authorized to conduct an investigation of abuse or neglect shall
5 coordinate investigatory activities in order to minimize the number of
6 interviews of any child and share information with other persons
7 authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or neglect, as
8 appropriate. A person reporting child abuse or neglect shall provide
9 any person authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or
10 neglect with all information related to the investigation that is in the
11 possession or control of the person reporting child abuse or neglect,
12 except as expressly prohibited by state or federal law. The
13 commissioner shall obtain the consent of parents or guardians or other
14 persons responsible for the care of the child to any interview with a

15 child, except that such consent shall not be required when the
 16 department has a documented compelling reason to believe [such
 17 parent or guardian or other person responsible for the care of the child
 18 or member of the child's household is the perpetrator of the alleged
 19 abuse] that seeking such consent would place the child at imminent
 20 risk of physical harm. If consent is not required to conduct the
 21 interview, such interview shall be conducted in the presence of a
 22 disinterested adult unless immediate access to the child is necessary to
 23 protect the child from imminent risk of physical harm and a
 24 disinterested adult is not available after reasonable search. For
 25 purposes of this section, a "documented compelling reason" includes,
 26 but is not limited to, criminal conviction information concerning the
 27 person or persons alleged to be responsible for such abuse or neglect
 28 and previous allegations of abuse or neglect relating to the child or
 29 other children residing in the household or relating to family violence.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2013	17a-101h
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Statement of Purpose:

To permit the Department of Children and Families to interview a child in a child protective investigation without parental consent in circumstances when obtaining such consent would place the child at imminent risk of physical harm.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]